

# New Beginnings DAEP



Marion Community Schools | Allen Elementary School

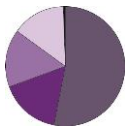


**MARION**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
[www.marion.k12.in.us](http://www.marion.k12.in.us)



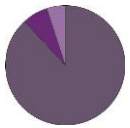
## Our location

MCS is an urban school system of about 3,600 students in the city of Marion, population about 30,000.



## Allen's demographics

About 385 students: 53% white; 16.3% multiracial; 15.5% Hispanic; 14.7% black



88% free meals; 4.9% reduced

## Our New Beginnings Team



Rianne Aguilar, special ed teacher; Jo Messner, behavioral interventionist; Debbie Stiles, school counselor; Lendon Schwartz, assistant principal; Amy Yoder, instructional aide; Sarah Nacke, instructional aide; Lori Brane, social worker; Anthony Williams, principal.

For more information about the program, our school or corporation, email Assistant Principal Lendon Schwartz, [lschwartz@marion.k12.in.us](mailto:lschwartz@marion.k12.in.us) or visit our website: [www.marion.k12.in.us](http://www.marion.k12.in.us)

## OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

We created our New Beginnings Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (the first of its kind in the state) to address our concerns for suspended students, and the educational and personal growth opportunities they were missing.

Since the creation of this program, out-of-school suspensions have dropped dramatically (from 202 in the 2013-14 school year to 16 as of February 2015)!

New Beginnings is not an in-school suspension program. It is a multi-faceted and multi-tiered approach to responding to and improving student behavior. Students work one-on-one with behavioral interventionists and instructional aides and meet frequently with a school counselor and social worker. The minimum length of participation is three days. There is no maximum.

Parents are also invited to Parent University, a support and encouragement program, to build a positive relationship in which everyone has the best interest of the student at heart.

## OUR STEPS

Staffers traveled to a Texas elementary school that had DAEP in place, then created a data- and research-based plan. The program has since evolved to meet the needs of our students. We plan to use Title 1 funds to sustain when SIG ends after 2015-16.

## SHARING OUR SUCCESS

Allen staffers presented at the SIG conference in Goshen in December 2014; to the Committee of Practitioners in Indiana in December 2014; to DOE representatives several times; and will be speaking at the National Alternative Education Association Conference this year. We have hosted various school corporations on-site and via webinar. New Beginnings was featured in the January 2015 issue of the IASP Indianagran and at the Catapult Learning Leadership Institute in San Francisco.

Our TRUE success, though, is the change we see in our students every day!